

Riverside
Maidenhead
4 Sept. 1871

My dear Madam

I have to solicit
your indulgence to an
old man of nearly 83. I
hope it will not be diffi-
cult to grant it.

My hasty promise
to come and see you and
Mr Flower this month
must be broken. I am
very sorry for it, & for
the cause of it; but I am
so troubled with rheuma-
tism

in my limbs, & especially
within the last few days
in my head, that it will
be impossible for me to
leave home. You and
my kind friend Mr Flower
will not wish to import
an additional cripple in-
to your healthy neighbour-
hood; and at present I
am almost unable to
move. At the same time
I am bound to say that
my general health is
good, and I hope that I
am sufficiently thankful.

Pray give my very
best remembrances and

kind regards to Mr Flower,
and request him to excuse
my unavoidable absence.
He will know that infirm-
ity needs rather pity than
pardon.

If any body in 'Streat-
ford inquire about me,
be so good as to say that
my spirit is willing but my
flesh is weak.

I used to write well;
but now, see to what a
martyrdom I put my
pothooks & hangers.

Yours most faithfully
and thankfully

J. Payne Collier
(82 3/4)

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common kind of paper
which is used in the
writing of letters
it is a kind of paper

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interested in the
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he should be
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